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General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda items 36 and 37

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Letter dated 21 November 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement issued on 21 November by India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) on the situation between Israel and Palestine (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Maria Luiza Ribeiro **Viotti**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

12-60446 (E) 281112

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Annex to the letter dated 21 November 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The situation between Israel and Palestine

India, Brazil and South Africa express their strongest condemnation of the ongoing violence between Israel and Palestine, which threatens the peace and security of the region. The IBSA countries deeply regret the loss of human lives and express their concern over the disproportionate and excessive use of force.

They urge the parties to immediately cease all violence, to exercise maximum restraint and to avoid taking any action that may further exacerbate the situation. They stress their expectation that the United Nations Security Council will do its utmost in the fulfilment of its responsibilities in regard to this serious situation.

They also stress the urgent need to lift the blockade on Gaza, which continues to worsen the already dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation in Gaza.

The IBSA countries express their strong support for the mediation efforts of the Government of Egypt, the League of Arab States and the United Nations Secretary-General aimed at achieving a negotiated ceasefire.

The IBSA countries believe that only diplomacy and dialogue will lead to the resolution of the current crisis, which makes it even more urgent to resume direct talks between Israel and Palestine, leading to a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question, i.e., the achievement of a two-State solution.

In view of the upcoming General Assembly discussion on the question of Palestine, India, Brazil and South Africa express their support for Palestine's request to be accorded observer State status in the United Nations system.

United Nations S/2012/869

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Letter dated 21 November 2012 from the Permanent Representative of South Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is with much regret that the Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Sudan informs the Security Council of the aerial bombardment by the Sudan Armed Forces of Kiir Adem and Gok Machar in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State yesterday, 20 November 2012, at 2 p.m. South Sudan time and today, 21 November 2012, at 10.30 a.m. South Sudan time, respectively.

As a result of these unfortunate bombings, the Government of South Sudan reports that three women, one man and one child have lost their lives, thus far. This is a further violation of the territorial integrity of the Republic of South Sudan, as well as a violation of Security Council resolution 2046 (2012), and specifically its paragraph 1 (i). We respectfully request the Security Council to demand that the Republic of Sudan immediately cease all hostilities, in line with its obligations under international law. Our two States have taken important and welcome steps to strengthen relations in recent weeks, most notably through the signature of the cooperation agreements on 27 September 2012, and this progress must be sustained.

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated to the members of the Security Council as a document.

(*Signed*) Francis Mading **Deng**
Permanent Representative

12-60279 (E) 231112

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United Nations S/2012/870

Security Council

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23 November 2012

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Identical letters dated 21 November 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write about an appalling escalation of terrorism directed at Israeli civilians. Hours ago, terrorists exploded a bomb on a city bus in the centre of Tel Aviv, one of Israel's great commercial centres and largest cities. More than 23 people were injured, many seriously. The terrorists launched this attack at the height of international efforts to reach a ceasefire.

Today's attack was another reminder about the enemies of peace in our region. Hamas has fired nearly 1,200 rockets into Israeli communities over the past 10 days — an average of one attack every eight minutes. Nearly half of Israel's population was placed under threat. Schools across the nation have been closed for more than a week. No nation, no Government and no people would tolerate such violence against its citizens. Israel will continue to take all necessary measures to defend its population.

Hamas has turned Gaza into a haven for global terrorists, a launching pad for rocket attacks and a giant warehouse for weapons flowing in from Syria, Libya, Sudan and, in particular, Iran.

Just today, Ali Larijani, the speaker of the Iranian parliament made clear once again that his country is arming the terrorists of Gaza. He said, "We are honored to be providing Palestinian people with military aid".

Palestinian terrorists also confirm that their weapons come from Iran. The head of the Islamic Jihad said just yesterday that "the entire world knows that Iran is the main source of our weapons".

For the sake of peace and security in our region, I call on the Security Council to speak loudly and clearly: condemn terror, condemn Hamas and condemn Iran and all nations that are providing the tools for terrorists to murder innocents in our region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

12-60371 (E) 261112

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